



Australian Bureau of Statistics

1329.0 - Wine exports up but record wine production sees stocks rise: ABS, 2005

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Wine exports up but record wine production sees stocks rise: ABS

New records were created for wine exports in 2004-05, but with wine production also hitting a new record winemakers were holding record levels of stocks, says the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Despite the red grape harvest dropping 5%, increased yields saw white grape production up 7%, ensuring the total grape harvest of 2.027 million tonnes nudged past the previous year's record.

Wine Production

Red/rose wine production correspondingly fell 6% to 760 million litres, but still made up over half (54%) of total wine produced. White wine production rose 12% to 639 million litres.

Export market

Australian wine exports surged ahead of domestic sales, up 15% to 670 million litres. The value of these exports increased to \$2.7 billion, a rise of 9%. However, the average price per litre dropped 5% from \$4.27 in 2003-04 to \$4.05 in 2004-05.

The United Kingdom was again the biggest importer taking 260 million litres, which was valued at \$960 million (m) followed by the United States of America (190 million litres, valued at \$870m) and Canada (45 million litres, valued at \$240m).

There has been a 40% growth in the exports of Australian wine to Asia. However, the UK and USA still account for two-thirds of our wine exports.

Domestic market

Domestic sales of Australian wine have maintained a steady growth, rising by just over 3% to 430 million litres. However, winemakers are now holding in excess of 2 billion litres in table wine inventories, a 50% increase on the stocks held in 2001.

There were 8,347 vineyards in Australia with a combined area of 166,665 hectares. Almost 30% of all winemaking locations were in South Australia and these accounted for almost half (47%) of the national wine grape crush.

More details, including irrigation data, are in **Australian Wine and Grape Industry, 2005** (cat. no. 1329.0), available free of charge from this web site.

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